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## Noise

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# Noise

by Eileen Cleary

Squirrels are eating nuts in her eaves, invading  
her home without knocking. She'd have heard a knock.

The chatter hangs over the rafters—  
*tsik, tsik*, like a threat of ambush.

These gray demons with their *kuk* and *siew*  
jab her ears like fists. They blather in the attic until

one distinct *muk* calls milk from her body.  
Perhaps it's a newborn squirrel,

and she will be forced to nurse it. She should feed that infant,  
but doesn't remember where it is, or was.